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Ms. Ann R. Brown  
Director  
Atlanta VA Health Care System  
1670 Clairmont Rd  
Decatur, GA 30033

October 8, 2020

Dear Director Brown,

As you well know, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic has demanded necessary changes to the operating status of medical facilities across the nation, including at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Regardless of these extenuating circumstances, our veterans have earned the benefits they receive from the VA, including access to medical and dental care, and the VA must be cognizant of how operating changes may affect veterans seeking care.

In recent months I have been contacted by several veterans in my district who have expressed concern for their dental health and wellbeing as a result of the VA's management of dental care for eligible veterans during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Because some facilities have closed as a result of the global health crisis, many of my constituents are facing difficulty accessing routine dental treatment through the VA.

It is my understanding that the only dental care currently available to eligible veterans is care that is considered to be "urgent/emergent", a narrow category that unfortunately excludes many necessary components of dental care. Dental needs that fall between a routine cleaning and an emergency extraction, if left untreated, inevitably become emergency dental issues, and in the meantime cause inexcusable complication and suffering to the veteran. Our veterans deserve the highest standard of care we can offer and the VA's exclusion of many dental treatments due to the coronavirus is requiring veterans to seek care elsewhere.

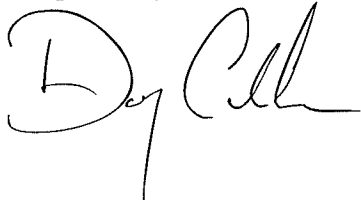
In light of the many veterans who have faced difficulties receiving dental care from the VA in recent months, I request that the appropriate officials within the VA provide additional information that will be helpful to my constituents as they continue to navigate the VA's operating status during the pandemic.

1. What dental services are currently being provided at VA medical facilities?
2. If the VA is unable to provide dental care to a veteran, what is the process in place for the veteran to receive dental care outside of the VA system while maintaining their VA benefits?

In order to better inform my constituents, I respectfully request that you provide a detailed response to each question as soon as possible but no later than October 22, 2020.

It is my hope that the VA can reach a positive resolution for our veterans continuing to suffer with dental issues left untreated by the VA. I look forward to your prompt response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Collins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Doug Collins  
Member of Congress